

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thoughtful examination, allowance of claims 9, 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 24, 37-39 and 49, indication of allowability of claims 20-22 and 34-36, and the recent telephone interview with applicants' representative.

Claims 19, 23, 25, 27-33, 35 and 40-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nakai et al. ("Nakai"). Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nakai in view of Ishiharada.

Applicants' prior response of January 8, 2008, amended claims 19 and 33. The Advisory Action of February 7, 2007 indicated that the case would not be allowed due to claim 25, but did not indicate the status of claims 19 and 33. By a telephone interview and follow-up exchange of voice mails between the Examiner and Applicants' representative, the Examiner indicated that the offered amendments to claims 19 and 33 overcame the pending rejection, and the case would be allowable if claim 25 and claims dependent therefrom were cancelled.

Claim 25 and its dependent claims have accordingly been cancelled accordingly by this amendment. Allowance of the application is therefor requested.

It is unclear from the Advisory Action whether the amendments to claims 19 and 33, as set forth in Applicants' prior response, have been entered (none of the applicable boxes have been checked in the Advisory Action). Out of an overabundance of caution, Applicants include those same amendments to claims 19 and 33 in the instant response.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 12492.0276).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Watkins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: May 6, 2008

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